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09/699,389

10/31/2000

SATOSHI NISHIKAWA

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06/23/2004

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EXAMINER

GHEE, ASHANTI

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2626

DATE MAILED: 06/23/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/699,389

Applicant(s)

NISHIKAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Ashanti Ghee

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-92 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14, 16-22, 24-37, 39-45, 47-60, 62-67, 70-83 and 85-91 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 15, 23, 38, 46, 61, 68, 84 and 92 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 31 October 2000 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

1. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

2. Claims 1, 24, 47, and 70 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claim 1 recites the limitation "the different data" and "the print setting information" in lines 9-10 and lines 12-13 respectively in the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
4. Claim 24 recites the limitation "the different data" and "the print setting information" in lines 13-14 and lines 16-17 respectively in the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
5. Claim 47 recites the limitation "the different data" and "the print setting information" in line 21 and lines 23-24 respectively in the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
6. Claim 70 recites the limitation "the different data" and "the print setting information" in line 2 and lines 4-5 respectively in the claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.
7. Claim 69 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite in that it fails to point out what is included or excluded by the claim language. This claim is an omnibus type claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1-14, 16-22, 24-37, 39-45, 47-60, 62-67, 70-83, and 85-91 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takeda et al. (US Patent No. 6,549,302 B1) in view of Maniwa et al. (US Patent No. 5,768,483).

Regarding claims 1 and 24, Takeda discloses an information processor and a method for generating data to be transmitted to a printer comprising: a composition instructing unit (control section 31, col. 4, lines 32-38) for instructing (instructing, col. 4, lines 32-38) a plurality of print jobs (list of documents) corresponding to the different data (document 1 and document 2 read on different data) to be printed (image forming section 17 reads on printed, col. 3, lines 39-48) to be composed together (combine the specified document with the document on which the document has been dropped) so as to generate (changes) one composed job (combine document 1 with document 2 reads on one composed job; col. 14, lines 1-36); and a setting unifier (control section 31) for analyzing (judges) the print setting information (page information, col. 12, lines 57-62) of a plurality of print jobs (list of documents, col. 6, lines 61-65) when the composition instructing unit (control section 31) instructs (instructions) the plurality of print jobs (list of documents) to be composed together (combine the specified document with the

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document on which the document has been dropped) so as to obtain one composed job (combine document 1 with document 2 reads on one composed job; col. 14, lines 1-36), and generating (created, col. 13, lines 38-53) print setting information (attribute of page 5 from Document reads on print setting information, col. 13, lines 38-53) for the composed job (combined document) in which information (changes the attribute) that can be respectively merely set (evident that change is setting the information) to print job is unified (combine document 1 with document 2 reads on print job is unified; col. 14, lines 1-36).

Although Takeda does not specifically disclose a spooler, Maniwa discloses a spooler (scanner/printer controller 107) for converting (converts) data (print data) to be printed which is generated (received in the context of this reference reads on generated) by an application (evident that WS 103 has an application) into a print job (image data) and temporarily storing (page buffer memory) the print job (image data reads on print job; col. 7, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 2 and 25, Takeda discloses the information processor, wherein said setting unifier further includes a recognizing unit for recognizing to select whether the settings are unified or the print jobs are not composed together when the print

setting information of a plurality of print jobs to be composed together is respectively analyzed (col. 12, lines 49-col. 13, lines 1-14) and the information which can be set only to one print job is mutually different (col. 13, lines 38-64).

Regarding claims 3 and 26, Takeda does not disclose wherein said spooler converts the data to be printed into the print job of intermediate code format and temporarily stores the print job as a page description file by a page unit.

However, Maniwa discloses the information processor, wherein said spooler converts the data to be printed into the print job of intermediate code format and temporarily stores the print job as a page description file by a page unit (col. 7, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 4 and 27, Takeda discloses the information processor, wherein information for designating the page description file laid out on a physical page is added to the print setting information of said composed job (col. 13, lines 38-64).

Regarding claims 5 and 28, Takeda does not disclose the information processor, wherein said print setting information is temporarily stored as a print setting file of each print job (col. 12, lines 49-col. 13, lines 1-4).

Regarding claims 6 and 29, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a preview display controller for controlling a preview based on the print setting information of the print jobs or the composed job to be displayed (col. 11, lines 52-col. 12, lines 1-22).

Regarding claims 7 and 30, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising an order controller for operating a plurality of print jobs in said composed job to reshuffle the order of the print jobs (col. 13, lines 38-53):

Regarding claims 8 and 31, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a job canceling unit for operating a plurality of print jobs in said composed job to cancel a specific print job (col. 7, lines 40-57).

Regarding claims 9 and 32, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a job divider for dividing said composed job into a plurality of print jobs before they are joined together (col. 14, lines 45-63).

Regarding claims 10 and 33, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a job duplicating unit for designating said print job (col. 3, lines 40-67) or said composed job to prepare the duplication of the designated print job.

Regarding claims 11 and 34, Takeda does not disclose wherein said print job or said composed job further includes a setting initializing unit for returning the intermediate code format as the base of the job to an initial state upon preparation of the data.

However, Maniwa discloses the information processor, wherein said print job or said composed job further includes a setting initializing unit for returning the

intermediate code format as the base of the job to an initial state upon preparation of the data (col. 7, lines 20-33).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 12 and 35, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a page editing unit for canceling a page designated relative to a logical page in said print job (col. 7, lines 24-39) or said composed job.

Regarding claims 13 and 36, Takeda does not disclose further comprising a printing data generator for generating the printing data to be transmitted to said printer on the basis of the data of the intermediate code format which is temporarily stored by said spooler.

However, Maniwa discloses the information processor, further comprising a printing data generator for generating the printing data to be transmitted to said printer on the basis of the data of the intermediate code format which is temporarily stored by said spooler (col. 7, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host

computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 14 and 37, Takeda does not disclose a description instruction generator for converting the data of the intermediate code format temporarily stored by said spooler into a description instruction which can be interpreted by the description unit of an OS and outputting the converted data; a print instruction allocator for sending a print instruction received through the description unit of the OS from said application to said intermediate data converter and sending the print instruction received through the description unit of the OS from the description instruction generator to said printing data generator.

However, Maniwa discloses the information processor, further comprising: a description instruction generator for converting the data of the intermediate code format temporarily stored by said spooler into a description instruction which can be interpreted by the description unit of an OS and outputting the converted data (col. 8, lines 24-41); a print instruction allocator for sending a print instruction received through the description unit of the OS from said application to said intermediate data converter and sending the print instruction received through the description unit of the OS from the description instruction generator to said printing data generator (col. 7, lines 20-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in

inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 16 and 39, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a composed job information generator for generating the layout information of said composed job on the basis of the layout information of a plurality of print jobs when said composition instructing unit instructs a plurality of print jobs to be composed together so as to have one composed job (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 17 and 40, Takeda discloses the information processor, wherein said composed job information generator generates the layout information of the composed job for each physical page on the basis of the layout information of a plurality of print jobs (col. 12, lines 49-col. 13, lines 1-4).

Regarding claims 18 and 41, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a layout unification instructing unit for instructing the layout information of said composed job to be unified (col. 14, lines 1-17), wherein said composed job information generator unifies the layout information of said composed job by all the physical pages when said layout unification instructing unit instructs the layout information to be unified (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 19 and 42, Takeda discloses the information processor, wherein said composed job information generator unifies the layout information of said composed job to prescribed layout information (col. 14, lines 1-17).

Regarding claims 20 and 43, Takeda discloses the information processor, wherein said composed job information generator unifies the layout information of said

composed job to the layout information of the print job corresponding to a first physical page in said composed job (col. 14, lines 18-36).

Regarding claims 21 and 44, Takeda discloses the information processor, wherein said composed job information generator counts the number of logical pages of said composed job and determines the arrangement of the logical pages in the physical pages for each physical page on the basis of the layout information (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 22 and 45, Takeda discloses the information processor, further comprising a close arrangement instructing unit for instructing the logical pages of each print job to be closely arranged (col. 14, lines 1-39); wherein said composed job information generator determines to closely arrange the logical pages in the physical pages when a close arrangement is instructed by said close arrangement instructing unit (col. 10, lines 47-col. 11, lines 1-22).

Regarding claims 47 and 70, Takeda discloses a computer-readable memory medium which stores a printing data generating program for generating printing data to be transmitted to a printer, the program comprising: a composition instructing program code (control section 31, col. 4, lines 32-38) for instructing (instructing, col. 4, lines 32-38) a plurality of print jobs (list of documents) corresponding to the different data (document 1 and document 2 read on different data) to be printed (image forming section 17 reads on printed, col. 3, lines 39-48) to be composed together (combine the specified document with the document on which the document has been dropped) so as to generate (changes) one composed job (combine document 1 with document 2 reads on one composed job; col. 14, lines 1-36); and a setting unifying program code (control

section 31) for analyzing (judges) the print setting information (page information, col. 12, lines 57-62) of a plurality of print jobs (list of documents, col. 6, lines 61-65) when the composition instructing unit (control section 31) instructs (instructions) the plurality of print jobs (list of documents) to be composed together (combine the specified document with the document on which the document has been dropped) so as to obtain one composed job (combine document 1 with document 2 reads on one composed job; col. 14, lines 1-36), and generating (created, col. 13, lines 38-53) print setting information (attribute of page 5 from Document reads on print setting information, col. 13, lines 38-53) for the composed job (combined document) in which information (changes the attribute) that can be respectively merely set (evident that change is setting the information) to print job is unified (combine document 1 with document 2 reads on print job is unified; col. 14, lines 1-36).

Although Takeda does not disclose a spool program code, Maniwa discloses a spool program code (scanner/printer controller 107) for converting (converts) data (print data) to be printed which is generated (received in the context of this reference reads on generated) by an application (evident that WS 103 has an application) into a print job (image data) and temporarily storing (page buffer memory) the print job (image data reads on print job; col. 7, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in

inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 48 and 71, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein said setting unifying program code further includes a recognizing step of recognizing to select whether the settings are unified or the print jobs are not composed together when the print setting information of a plurality of print jobs to be composed together is respectively analyzed (col. 12, lines 49-col. 13, lines 1-14) and the information which can be set only to one print job is mutually different (col. 13, lines 38-64).

Regarding claims 49 and 71, Takeda does not disclose wherein said spool program code converts said data to be printed into the print job of intermediate code format and temporarily stores the print job as a page description file by a page unit.

However, Maniwa discloses the memory medium, wherein said spool program code converts said data to be printed into the print job of intermediate code format and temporarily stores the print job as a page description file by a page unit (col. 7, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 50 and 71, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein information for designating the page description files laid out on a physical page is

added to the print setting information of said composed job (col. 13, lines 38-64).

Regarding claims 51 and 74, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein said print setting information is temporarily stored as a print setting file of each print job (col. 12, lines 49-col. 13, lines 1-4).

Regarding claims 52 and 75, Takeda discloses the memory medium, further comprising a preview display controlling step of controlling a preview based on the print setting information of said print jobs or said composed job to be displayed (col. 11, lines 52-col. 12, lines 1-22).

Regarding claims 53 and 76, Takeda discloses the memory medium, further comprising an order controlling step of operating a plurality of print jobs in the composed job to reshuffle the order of the print jobs (col. 13, lines 38-53).

Regarding claims 54 and 77, Takeda discloses the memory medium according to claim 47, further comprising a job cancelling step of operating a plurality of print jobs in said composed job to cancel a specific print job (col. 7, lines 40-57).

Regarding claims 55 and 78, Takeda discloses the memory medium according to claim 47, further comprising a job dividing step of dividing said composed job into a plurality of print jobs before they are joined together (col. 14, lines 45-63).

Regarding claims 56 and 79, Takeda discloses the memory medium according to claim 47, further comprising a job duplicating step of designating said print job (col. 3, lines 40-67) or said composed job to prepare the duplication of the designated print job.

Regarding claims 57 and 80, Takeda does not disclose wherein said print job or

said composed job further includes a setting initializing step of returning the intermediate code format as the base of the job to an initial state upon preparation of the data on the basis of the print setting information.

However, Maniwa discloses the memory medium, wherein said print job or said composed job further includes a setting initializing step of returning the intermediate code format as the base of the job to an initial state upon preparation of the data on the basis of the print setting information (col. 7, lines 20-33).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 58 and 81, Takeda discloses the memory medium, further comprising a page editing step of cancelling a page designated relative to a logical page in said print job (col. 7, lines 24-39) or said composed job.

Regarding claims 59 and 82, Takeda does not disclose further comprising a printing data generating step of generating the printing data to be transmitted to said printer on the basis of the data of the intermediate code format which is temporarily stored in said spool program code.

However, Maniwa discloses the memory medium according to claim 49, further comprising a printing data generating step of generating the printing data to be

transmitted to said printer on the basis of the data of the intermediate code format which is temporarily stored in said spool program code (col. 7, lines 34-38).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 60 and 83, Takeda does not disclose further comprising: a description instruction generating step of converting the data of the intermediate code format temporarily stored in said spool program code into a description instruction which can be interpreted in the description step of an OS and outputting the converted data; and a print instruction allocating step of sending a print instruction received through the description step of the OS from said application to said intermediate data converting step and sending the print instruction received through the description step of the OS from said description instruction generating step to said printing data generating step.

However, Maniwa discloses the memory medium, further comprising: a description instruction generating step of converting the data of the intermediate code format temporarily stored in said spool program code into a description instruction which can be interpreted in the description step of an OS and outputting the converted data (col. 8, lines 24-41); and a print instruction allocating step of sending a print instruction received through the description step of the OS from said application to said intermediate data converting step and sending the print instruction received through the

description step of the OS from said description instruction generating step to said printing data generating step (col. 7, lines 20-62).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the Takeda and Maniwa references due to both references disclose a network copier system that receives commands from a host computer(s) to provide a function in which the convenience of work and work-ability in inputting therein image data from a scanner through a network.

Regarding claims 62 and 85, Takeda discloses the memory medium, further comprising a composed job information generating step of generating the layout information of said composed job on the basis of the layout information of a plurality of print jobs when said composition instructing step instructs a plurality of print jobs to be composed together so as to have one composed job (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 63 and 86, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein said composed job information generating step generates the layout information of said composed job for each physical page on the basis of the layout information of a plurality of print jobs (col. 12, lines 49-col. 13, lines 1-4).

Regarding claims 64 and 87, Takeda discloses the memory medium, further comprising a layout unification instructing step of instructing the layout information of said composed job to be unified (col. 14, lines 1-17), wherein said composed job information generating step unifies the layout information of the composed job by all the physical pages when said layout unification instructing step instructs the layout

information to be unified (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claims 65 and 88, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein said composed job information generating step unifies the layout information of said composed job to prescribed layout information (col. 14, lines 1-17).

Regarding claims 66 and 89, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein said composed job information generating step unifies the layout information of said composed job to the layout information of the print job corresponding to a first physical page in said composed job (col. 14, lines 18-36).

Regarding claim 67, Takeda discloses the memory medium, wherein said composed job information generating step counts the number of logical pages of said composed job and determines the arrangement of the logical pages in the physical pages for each physical page on the basis of the layout information (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claim 90, Takeda discloses the printing data generating program, wherein said composed job information generator counts the number of logical pages of said composed job and determines the arrangement of the logical pages in the physical pages for each physical page on the basis of the layout information (col. 14, lines 1-39).

Regarding claim 91, Takeda discloses the printing data generating program, further comprising a close arrangement instructing unit for instructing the logical pages of each print job to be closely arranged (col. 14, lines 1-39); wherein said composed job information generator determines to closely arrange the logical pages in the physical pages when a close arrangement is instructed by said close arrangement instructing unit (col. 10, lines 47-col. 11, lines 1-22).

Allowable Subject Matter

10. Claims 15, 23, 38, 46, 61, 68, 84, and 92 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

11. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Tani et al. (US Patent No. 4,627,707) discloses a copier with image editing function.

Kobayashi et al. (US Patent No. 6,130,965) discloses an image outputting apparatus and fax machine that combines a plurality of image data onto one page.

Roberts et al. (US Patent No. 6,476,930 B1) discloses an output processing and merging of hybrid electronic documents.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ashanti Ghee whose telephone number is (703) 306-3443. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs and alt. Fri. (7-4PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A. Williams can be reached on (703) 305-4863. The fax phone

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number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

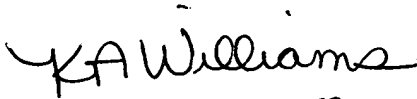
Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



AG

June 13, 2004

Ashanti Ghee
Examiner
Art Unit 2626



KIMBERLY WILLIAMS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER